AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of managing occupants of a building during an emergency event, the method comprising:

obtaining building information for a plurality of areas of the building<u>, wherein the plurality of areas include at least one floor and at least one area of the at least one floor</u>;

<u>obtaining occupant information for an occupant of the building, wherein the occupant information includes a name of the occupant and contact information for the occupant;</u>

<u>obtaining a location within the building for the occupant;</u>

associating <u>the</u> occupant information ~~for an occupant located at one of the plurality of areas of the building~~ with the ~~corresponding~~ building information <u>that corresponds to the location</u>;

<u>obtaining contact information for the occupant using the building information;</u>

contacting the occupant using the occupant information during the emergency event; and

obtaining a status of the occupant.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining building information step includes obtaining a hierarchical representation of the building, wherein the hierarchical representation includes:

a floor node for each floor in the building; and

Serial No. 10/764,258   Page 2 of 12

at least one floor area node for at least one area of each floor in the building, wherein the

occupant information is associated with the at least one floor area node.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the occupant information includes:

a user node for the occupant; and

at least one device node comprising device information for a device associated with the

occupant.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising directing assistance to the occupant

based on the status of the occupant.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an instruction to the occupant.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the providing instructions step includes:

determining an exit route for the occupant; and

communicating the exit route to the occupant.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a summary of the statuses of

a plurality of occupants.

Serial No. 10/764,258   Page 3 of 12

8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of managing occupants of a physical

area, the method comprising:

obtaining a plan for the physical area;

generating a hierarchical representation of the physical area based on the plan, wherein

the hierarchical representation includes a plurality of area nodes;

obtaining occupant information for an occupant of the physical area; and

associating the occupant information with an area node in the hierarchical representation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the physical area includes a building.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the generating step includes:

creating a building node for the building;

identifying at least one floor in the building using the plan;

creating a floor node for each of the identified at least one floors;

adding each floor node as a child node of the building node;

identifying at least one floor area of the at least one floor using the plan;

creating a floor area node for each of the identified at least one floor areas; and

adding each floor area node as a child node of the floor node for the corresponding floor.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising linking each area node to a

corresponding area of the plan.

Serial No. 10/764,258   Page 4 of 12

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the associating step includes:

obtaining an office location for the occupant;

identifying an area node that corresponds to the office location; and

associating the occupant information with the area node.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein at least one area node includes contact information for contacting an occupant of the area.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the occupant information includes contact information for contacting the occupant.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the contact information includes at least one of: handheld device information, mobile telephone information, home telephone information, and pager information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

detecting an emergency event; and

communicating with the occupant using the hierarchical representation.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising obtaining a status of the occupant.

Serial No. 10/764,258   Page 5 of 12

18. (Original) A system for managing occupants of a physical area, the system comprising:

means for obtaining a plan for the physical area;

means for generating a hierarchical representation of the physical area based on the plan;

means for obtaining occupant information for an occupant of the physical area; and

means for associating the occupant information with an area node in the hierarchical

representation.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising means for communicating with the

occupant during an emergency event.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising means for providing directions to the

occupant using the hierarchical representation.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the directions comprise directions from a first

location to a second location in a building.

Serial No. 10/764,258   Page 6 of 12

22. (Original) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having

computer readable program code embodied therein for managing occupants of a physical area,

the program product comprising:

program code configured to obtain a plan for the physical area;

program code configured to generate a hierarchical representation of the physical area

based on the plan;

program code configured to obtain occupant information for an occupant of the physical

area; and

program code configured to associate the occupant information with an area node in the

hierarchical representation.

Serial No. 10/764,258   Page 7 of 12